

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communication between at least two applications, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accepting a connection from a second application on a first port;

allocating a second port to receive the communication from the second application;

recording ~~the~~ a translation of the second port to the first port;

~~the second application~~ sending the communication to the first port ~~from the second application~~;

~~a first application requesting the communication from the first port;~~

~~translating the first port in the request for the communication from the first application to the second port; and~~

~~receiving the communication on the second port; and~~

~~delivering the communication to a to the first application from the second port.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

listening on the first port for the connection from the second application.

3-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein: 1 further comprising~~

~~the step of receiving the communication on the second port including queuing the communication on the second port from the first port.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

the second application requesting to connect with the first port prior to the ~~step of~~ accepting the connection.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

negotiating the second port following ~~the step of~~ allocating the second ~~port; port~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

~~the step of negotiating the second port comprises including~~ negotiating the second port between a first virtual port multiplexer and a second virtual port multiplexer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

connecting the second application with the second port following ~~the step of~~ allocating the second port.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

~~the step of~~ recording the translation including comprises:

a) recording the translation of the second port in association with the first application; and

b) recording the translation of the second port in association with the second application.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

~~the step of~~ recording the translation of the second port in association with the first application including comprises recording the translation in a first virtual port multiplexer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

~~the step of recording the translation of the second port in association with the second application including comprises recording the translation in a second virtual port multiplexer.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

~~the step of the second application sending the communication to the first port from the second application including comprises directing the communication at a first port number and translating the first port number to a second port number; and sending the communication to the second port utilizing the second port number prior to the step of receiving the communication on the second port.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

~~returning to the second application a virtual socket connection to the first port prior to the step of second application sending the communication to the first port from the second application.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~the step of delivering the communication to the first application from the second port including comprises rewriting the communication to appear to the first application as though the communication is delivered from the first port.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

~~the step of rewriting including comprises rewriting a header of the communication to include a first port number identifying at least the first port.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

~~the step of rewriting including comprises rewriting the header of the communication to include a revised checksum.~~

18-32 (Cancelled)

33. (New) A computer readable medium storing a plurality of instructions which, when executed, implement a method comprising:

accepting a connection from a second application on a first port;  
allocating a second port to receive communication from the second application;  
recording a translation of the second port to the first port;  
receiving the communication on the first port from the second application;  
receiving a request for the communication from a first application, the request including an indication of the first port;  
translating the first port in the request for the communication from the first application to the second port; and  
delivering the communication to the first application from the second port.

34. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises queuing the communication on the second port from the first port.

35. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises receiving a request from the second application to connect with the first port prior to the accepting the connection.

36. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises negotiating the second port following allocating the second port.

37. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 36 wherein negotiating the second port comprises negotiating the second port between a first virtual port multiplexer and a second virtual port multiplexer.

38. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises connecting the second application with the second port following allocating the second port.

39. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 38 wherein recording the translation comprises:

recording the translation of the second port in association with the first application; and

recording the translation of the second port in association with the second application.

40. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 39 wherein recording the translation of the second port in association with the first application comprises recording the translation in a first virtual port multiplexer.

41. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 40 wherein recording the translation of the second port in association with the second application comprises recording the translation in a second virtual port multiplexer.

42. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 33 wherein delivering the communication to the first application from the second port comprises rewriting the communication to appear to the first application as though the communication is delivered from the first port.

43. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 42 wherein rewriting comprises rewriting a header of the communication to include a first port number identifying the first port.

44. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 43 wherein rewriting comprises rewriting the header of the communication to include a revised checksum.

45. (New) A system comprising a first computer configured to execute a first application and a second computer configured to execute a second application, wherein the first computer is in communication with the second computer during use, and wherein:

the first computer is coupled to receive a request for connection from the second computer on a first port, the request for connection responsive to the second application;

the first computer is configured to allocate a second port to receive communication from the second application;

the first computer is configured to record a translation of the second port to the first port;

the second application is configured to send the communication to the first port;

the first application is configured to request the communication from the first port;

the first computer is configured to translate the first port in the request for the communication from the first application to the second port; and

the first computer is configured to deliver the communication to the first application from the second port.

46. (New) The system as recited in claim 45 wherein the second application is configured to listen on the first port for the connection from the second application.
47. (New) The system as recited in claim 45 wherein the first computer is configured to queue the communication on the second port from the first port.
48. (New) The system as recited in claim 45 wherein the first computer is configured to negotiate the second port with the second computer following allocating the second port.
49. (New) The system as recited in claim 45, wherein the first computer recording the translation comprises:
  - recording the translation of the second port in association with the first application; and
  - recording the translation of the second port in association with the second application.